



# Astro News

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“Forging the shape of military space for the 21st century”

Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif., Jan. 12, 2001

## SMC captain selected as female Athlete of the Year for AFMC

By Tim Dougherty  
Astro News Editor

SMC's Capt. Valerie Manning is the 2000 AFMC female Athlete of the Year. She's an aerospace professional attached to SMC's operating location at the Onizuka Air Force Station, Calif., and a participant in the Air Force World Class Athlete Program.

“It was an absolute delight for my organization to support Capt Manning in her quest for Olympic gold,” said CWNO commander Lt. Col. Joe Dortch. “I think my team did an outstanding job acquainting her with active duty requirements, handling her travel arrangements and getting her involved with community events. Capt. Manning received top drawer mentoring from CWNO and she was instrumental in developing personal fitness programs for myself and every one of my team members. She delivered a stirring presentation at the Onizuka Awards Breakfast that was both motivational and inspirational.”

“I knew Capt. Manning was

a winner because she has a competitive fire that burns constantly. Her being named AFMC Female Athlete of the Year is a result of this fire and truly reflects great credit upon herself and the Air Force. She gave us plenty of material from which to build the winning nomination package,” Dortch said.

Manning, a 100-meter hurdler, competed at the 2000 Olympic trials while in the WCAP and finished ninth. The top three finishers went on to the Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

“The World Class Athlete Program is awesome,” Manning said. “It allowed me to spend 100 percent of my time training for the Olympics. The folks at SMC were very supportive of me and it made it easier for me to train.”

Manning, the recent 100 meter hurdle winner at the 2000 Australian National Championships on the 2000 Olympic Track, has been competing in track and field since a student at Hammond High School in Columbia, Md.

By the end of her junior year, she had found her niche in the 100-meter hurdles and has been doing it ever since.

As the daughter of a career Marine, Manning says she feels like she has been in the military all her life, but in reality, she attended Princeton University, N.J., on an Air Force Reserve Officer's Training Corps scholarship from 1986 to 1990 and was commissioned a second lieutenant.

She spent three years at Kelly AFB, Texas, as a manpower manager, and left active-duty in 1993 to go back to school full-time at Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif., where she completed a masters and doctorate in aeronautics and astronautics.

Last week, Manning moved herself, her two BMW motorcycles and all her belongings to Los Angeles to start the next chapter in her life as an aerospace consultant for a firm based in Southern California. She will soon be an active reservist as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee here at SMC.



Photo by Joe Juarez

SMC's Capt. Valerie Manning leapt over many obstacles enroute to her selection as Athlete of the Year for AFMC.

## Air Force awards \$1.3 billion satellite contract to Boeing

By Capt. Jay Schatz  
MILSATCOM Program Office

The Wideband Gapfiller Satellites design and production contract was awarded to Boeing Satellite Systems in El Segundo, Calif., Jan. 2. Boeing Satellite Systems will develop, produce and launch three high performance communications satellites with the first WGS to be launched in early 2004.

The WGS contract also calls for Boeing to deliver all associated satellite control systems and contains options for the government to purchase up to three additional satellites. The total scope of the contract is more than \$1.3 billion.

The contract award culminates two years of requirement definition, market research, acquisition strategy development and source selection.

“This ACAT-1D program has come a long way in a very short time,” said Lt. Col. Brian Magazu, WGS Program Manager. “We knew our pre-award schedule was aggressive, but our main focus is to provide on-orbit capability in just 36 months after contract award.”

The WGS acquisition strategy and source selection was lauded by Darleen Druyun, the Principal Deputy

Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition and Management who said, “The Wideband Gapfiller Satellite Team is to be commended for conducting an outstanding, lightning-fast, commercial acquisition strategy and orchestrating the best source selection I've seen in years, simply an A plus effort.”

The source selection involved a multi-service team

which included members from Army and Navy space and acquisition offices.

“Our multi-Service team was key to our success,” Magazu said. “It allowed us to address the full spectrum of the acquisition and quickly overcome any issues.”

Military Satellite Communications Joint Program Office personnel and worldwide users

See SATELLITE, page 3



By Lt. Gen. Eugene Tattini  
SMC Commander

Back in early November, our Command Chief Master Sergeant, Chief Don Cleveland wrote an editorial that appeared in this space that provided some sage words regarding preparations for an IG inspection. As we prepare to welcome the Air Force Materiel Command Inspector General to the Space and Missile Systems Center and Los Angeles AFB in two weeks, I thought it important to underscore what the Chief so eloquently said in his earlier editorial – that confidence, pride and enthusiasm are powerful ways of demonstrating the professionalism of any organization, but especially an organization that is dedicated to the defense and security of our nation.

Each of you is the best at what you do and you know it. To use the new Air Force slogan, *no one comes close* to the professionalism and down right outstanding technical expertise each of you possesses. I am absolutely convinced that the men and women of our SMC/61st Air Base Group team are as much a part of the tip of the spear as our war-fighting colleagues in the combat

commands – that your contributions to our Air Force mission are critical to that mission's success.

You demonstrate every day your commitment to our Air Force and our nation. In a couple of weeks I expect that the AFMC IG team will also fully recognize this. You've worked hard to prepare for this upcoming inspection and my only advice now is that each of you forcefully display that confidence, pride and enthusiasm that is so evident in our preparation. Together, we are delivering unrivaled space, missile, and information capabilities and systems to the joint warfighter, and the nation. And in doing so, we are forging the shape of military space for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. You live the vision and mission, and I'm confident the inspectors will immediately see that confidence, pride and enthusiasm.



# Time to make a few changes

By Tim Dougherty  
Astro News Editor

Let me ask you a question: What are you going to do this year to make yourself better? How do you plan to improve? Have you made any New Year's resolutions? How many of those did you already break now that the new year is nearly two weeks old?

Well, for me, as the Astro

News editor, I decided to make a few changes in the style and layout of the newspaper. You can see some of the changes in this issue.

More than the cosmetic changes, however, are changes to the way I plan to get my news this year. I want more interaction from the readers. I'd like to ask every reader of the Astro News to help me identify good stories. I need

you to tell me what you want to read. What interests you and why? The Astro News can only get better and, by this time next year, I hope to be able to look back at a highly successful 2001.

My E-mail address is [timothy.dougherty@losangeles.af.mil](mailto:timothy.dougherty@losangeles.af.mil) or call me at 363-0303 with your ideas. And don't forget to challenge yourself and make 2001 the best year ever.

## Action Line

The Action Line is your direct link to Col. Phil Parker, 61st Air Base Group commander. Its purpose is to make Los Angeles AFB a better place to live and work. If you have an issue that needs to be resolved, discuss it first with your supervisor or First Sergeant. Call the Action Line if you can't

find a solution through your chain of command. Your call will be recorded and, if you leave your name and number, you will get an answer to your question.



Here is my concern: the travel management office needs to provide service on a "first-come, first-served" basis. Recently, when I have brought temporary additional duty orders to the travel management office, the individual who is authorizing the orders works the stack by placing orders on top of each other, rather than placing the most recently received set of orders on the bottom of the pile. I waited for a long time and noticed that people who were arriving after me were getting tickets before me. Again, the service should be "first-come, first-served." I would like this problem solved.

Thank you for identifying this issue. Our policy at TMO is indeed "first come, first served" but it looks like we may have dropped the ball during a recent personnel changeover. As a result, the NCOIC for

passenger travel has now conducted training with all Traffic Management Flight personnel outlining policies and procedures for processing passenger travel. This should eliminate the problem you mention and enable TMO to provide more courteous and efficient customer service.

I am a retiree from the Air Force, and my concern is with the increase in identity theft that is going on in the world today. Can AAFES come up with another method for processing checks without using the Social Security Number? The fact that you are retired or active-duty and the branch of service that you belong to also seems unnecessary. Once a check is processed it goes through a clearinghouse and that information is accessible to anyone. I was wondering if there was some way they could update their system for check cashing?

Thanks for your call. The Los Angeles AFB exchange manager, Dave Clore, says this: We are very concerned about protecting the personal data we receive from our customers, and are aware of the various schemes being used by the criminal element to steal this information. However, in order to continue offering check-cashing services, the exchange must take steps to minimize the number of dishonored checks we receive – as well as maximize the recovery of these checks when they are dishonored. The good news is we are looking at alternative methods that will eliminate the need for writing SSNs on checks. The goal is to eliminate the SSN requirement on checks in the near future. But, until we can get a solution that works, we need the SSN when checks are cashed or used for purchases. I appreciate your patience and please rest-assured we are working diligently to address your concerns and will strive to protect against misuse of customers' SSNs.

You can call the Action Line at 363-2255 with any questions or comments you have.

*Editor's note: See page 11 for a story on identity theft from Air Force News.*

## Astro News

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### Editorial policy

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Deadline for submissions is Friday, close of business, the week before publication. Articles should be sent via e-mail to the editor. The mailing address for photos is SMC/PAI, 2420 Vela Way, Suite 1467, El Segundo, Calif. 90245-4659.

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For advertising information or space reservations, call Gail at (661) 945-5634.

**Submit news articles or photos to:**  
**SMC.PA.ASTRONEWS@LOSANGELES.AF.MIL**  
**OR**  
**Call 363-0303 for more information.**



## Here's a great IDEA

Stop by and talk about your ideas with the Innovative Development through Employee Awareness program manager Jan. 19 in the Area A Mall. Do you have an idea that you've been pondering for a long time and want to learn how you can turn that idea into cash? Participating with the IDEA program is fast and easy and could lead to a cash award of \$200 for an approved idea with intangible benefits. Awards for an approved idea with tangible savings to the government is 3 percent of the estimated first-year savings. Just for submitting an eligible idea the IDEA program office gives the submitter a promotional gift. Don't miss this exciting event. Call Beverly Bone at 363-CASH for more informa-

SATELLITE, from page 1

are excited by the tremendous capabilities of WGS.

"The Boeing design represents a quantum leap forward in performance for DoD communications satellites that are comparable to the most advanced commercial satellites that are under development today," said Dr. Thomas Hopp, WGS systems engineer with The Aerospace Corporation. "Boeing's WGS design provides more than 10 times the communications capability of the Defense Satellite Communications Systems III satellites. WGS will enable our warfighters' vision of a digitized battlefield. The Boeing design leverages the advanced technology that has been developed under their commercial programs, including phased array antennas and a high flexible digital channelization system to route the communications links to anywhere in the satellite's field of view."

With the award now finalized, the WGS team is looking for a few energetic officers to lead the program through design, production and launch. Officers who want to investigate these opportunities should contact Magazu or Anthony Elliott at 336-4882.

# Flu shots available, mandatory for active duty

**SMC NEWS** – All active duty military personnel are required by Air Force Joint Instruction 48-110 to receive a flu shot. They will be available for active duty only, according to the following schedule:

### Today

8-10:30 a.m., Building 219, main lobby. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Area A Mall. 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., Building 130, vending/break room.

### Jan. 16

8-10:30 a.m., Building 110, main lobby. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Area A Mall.

### Jan. 17

8-10:30 a.m., Building 130, vending/break room. 11 a.m. -

1 p.m., Area A Mall. 1:30-3:30 p.m., Building 219 main lobby.

Flu shots will also be available in the main immunization clinic in Building 200, room 170. However, to keep the immunization clinic as orderly as possible, active-duty members are requested to take advantage of the dates and times listed above.

Flu shots for retirees and family members will be available starting Jan. 18 in the immunization clinic from 7-11:30 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m. The clinic is open Monday through Friday but is closed Thursday mornings for training. The immunization clinic is located in Building 200, room 170, just



Photo by Lou Hernandez

Col. Bill Gardner gets his flu shot from Tech. Sgt. Thomas Hansen.

inside the main entrance on the left. A military identification card is required to obtain a flu shot. Flu shots are available to all military ID card-holders

regardless of Tricare enrollment status. Questions can be directed to the NCOIC of the immunization clinic at 363-1501.

## A big STEP forward



Photo by Lou Hernandez

Tech. Sgt. Mark Garner and his wife Cindy are understandably happy after Garner, the NCOIC of the ground safety office, is promoted by SMC commander Lt. Gen. Eugene Tattini under the

"Stripes for Exceptional Performers" program. The STEP program gives commanders a chance to recognize one outstanding Blue Suiter per year by giving them an instant promotion.

# Construction projects limit space for long-term parking

**SMC NEWS** – Two ongoing construction projects at the Los Angeles AFB have limited the amount of space available for long-term parking. Therefore, by order of the base commander, long-term parking privileges will only be extended to the following personnel: active-duty military members assigned or attached to Los Angeles AFB, reservists on active-duty assigned to Los Angeles AFB and Department

of Defense civilians employed at Los Angeles AFB. These changes took effect Jan. 8, 2001.

The long-term parking area is located in the first five rows north of the base Service Station. Parking in this area is by permit only and limited to a maximum of 30 days. If parking in excess of 30 days is required for duty purposes, request approval from the Security Forces Commander in Building 241, room 108. Once

the proper approval is obtained, present it to the Police Officer at Gate 5 (Visitor Control) on Douglas Avenue. To obtain the long-term parking permit, an identification card, valid registration and proof of insurance is required. The Long Term Parking Permit must be placed in an unobstructed viewing area on the vehicle dashboard. If the vehicle cannot be removed by the specified date on the

permit, call the Law Enforcement Desk at 363-2123 and inform the police officer on duty. The new return date will be noted. In the case of extended TDY or reserve duty, a copy of orders is required.

Long-term parking requires approval from Security Forces. Vehicles parked in the long-term area without authorization will be ticketed or towed at the owner's expense. — 61st Security Forces

# Improved SMC Web site offers more flexibility, access

By Capt. Brock Oaks  
Public Affairs

SMC and Los Angeles Air Force Base have redesigned their public web site to a new SMC Link that will offer patrons more flexibility, ease of use and enhanced access to daily news.

The new format debuts today and puts SMC one step closer to meeting the Air Force's goal of fully integrating the service's base web sites currently developed, operated and maintained at the local level. The new Space and Missile Systems Center web site design closely integrates not only the format as seen on Air Force Link (www.af.mil), but it also integrates the Air Force's comprehensive on-line content and commonsensical navigation structure.

Another one of the more notable changes from the former web site will be ability to personalize content within the new layout. Once the SMC Link is fully integrated with the existing Air Force Link sometime later this year, it will allow local users to tailor their start-up page with local weather, global and Department of Defense related news stories, local traffic reports, and even sports. This new site capability will mark a major milestone in the Air Force's efforts to modernize and employ the latest technology for all of its web sites.

Air Force Link is dedicated to timely and accurate news dissemination and currently

hosts more than two million visitors each week. This incredible amount of traffic makes it the busiest online presence for any of the military services. The new SMC Link will adapt a similar emphasis on news that is associated with local SMC and Los Angeles Air Force Base events.

With Los Angeles AFB as the only remaining active duty facility in the South Bay region, it is responsible to support a great number of retired veterans and local recruiters in addition to the personnel at SMC with its infrastructure. The new web site will make it easier to publish and find information relevant to the local community that regularly depends on the services and facilities the base provides.

For example, the new Commander's Corner creates an online forum for the SMC Commander to issue periodic editorials and perspectives on some of the exciting issues we are involved in throughout SMC and Los Angeles AFB. It also links to several of his speeches. Additionally, the new Resource Center link collects a number of existing online sources into an easy-access information tool. Local special interest programs will now be able to advertise any of their upcoming events with greater prominence on the SMC web page. This exposure will hopefully increase awareness, but also increase participation in these valuable programs. Direct questions to SMC Public Affairs at 363-0030.



# Looking good: Uniform changes take effect Feb. 1

**WASHINGTON (AFPN)** — Personnel officials said the 95th Uniform Board's results will take effect Feb. 1 because of the extended time required to incorporate all the decisions, changes and updates into the Air Force's instruction on dress and appearance of its members. Air Force Instruction 36-2903 states Air Force Uniform Board results take effect when incorporated into the instruction; however, because of the

extended time required to update the instruction, the uniform board's results will become effective next month. The results of the board are: — When wearing ribbons, all — including devices — are required. — Fingernail length cannot interfere with duty performance or hinder proper fit of prescribed safety equipment or uniform items. — Attaché cases, gym bags,

backpacks and women's purses are authorized to be carried in either hand, but cannot interfere with giving a proper salute. — Attachments for access badges/passes are authorized (plain dark blue or black ropes, silver or plastic small link chains, and clear plastic chain) as long as they do not interfere with safety; they must be conservative and free of advertisement. — Center the excellence-in-

competition badge on the welt pocket of the service dress jacket. — Pharmacy technician certification badge may be worn on the utility uniform (whites) 1/2 inch above nametag. — "Camel pack" water containers are approved as part of standard hot weather uniform. — The re-sized mini-badge is authorized for wear when available for purchase. Al-

though the topic of nametags was not addressed by the board, questions continually arise, according to personnel officials. The AFI states nametags must be "laminated ultramarine blue plastic material with white, block-style letters engraved on the plastic and a clutch-type fastener." Additionally, the instruction states no additions can be made. Epoxy resin covered or coated nametags are not authorized.

## Air Force seeks \$38 million for ABL

**WASHINGTON (AFPN)** — Air Force officials said Jan. 5 they will request congressional approval to reprogram \$38 million in fiscal 2001 funds to keep the Airborne Laser program, the world's first laser-armed combat aircraft, on track for a live-fire demonstration in 2003. The money is needed to cover contractor tasks that must be conducted now but are not budgeted for until later years, officials said. The extra funds will also cover unforeseen technical adjustments that arose during the program's current development phase. Additionally, the ABL contractor team of Boeing, Lockheed-Martin and TRW will each contribute \$20 million this year with the expectation that the Air Force will reimburse them next year. "This program is too

important and we intend to keep the program on track for its 2003 missile shoot-down," said Gen. Michael Ryan, Air Force chief of staff. The ABL is scheduled to shoot down its first missile in a test over the Pacific Ocean in late 2003. The extra funds will be used to help ensure the program meets this schedule. The project will be set back 15 to 20 months if the money is not reprogrammed, said Col. Ellen Pawlikowski, ABL program director. Although the program has seen technical challenges typical of the type most programs encounter when they move from paper design to production and integration, it has encountered no "show-stoppers" and has met or exceeded every technical requirement. "I'm delighted with the Air Force and contractor team

decisions," Pawlikowski said. "It demonstrates the confidence the Air Force has in our program and reflects the value our leaders place on developing a system designed to protect the American troops in the field from theater ballistic missile attacks." The ABL program in its current configuration began in November 1996 when the Air Force awarded \$1.1 billion to the three contractors to build the system. Boeing is currently developing the software to power the battle management system of a modified 747-400 freighter, while TRW builds the multimegawatt chemical oxygen-iodine laser, and Lockheed-Martin builds the optical system, which includes a 1.5 meter telescope as the laser beam lens.

## Dollars and Sense

*Keeping you up to date on important financial, travel-related information*

Did you know there is now a way for individual government travel cardholders to access their account online? The program is called EAGLS, an Internet-based system designed to access individual government travel card accounts electronically. Any traveler who holds a government travel card can access EAGLS. Under EAGLS a cardholder can: check personal information for accuracy; submit changes to personal information; change personal identification numbers; check account

information; view and print current and past statements; and access the current charges and credits to the travel card account. To gain access to EAGLS, cardholders need to contact their unit Agency Program Coordinator. The APC will set up a user identification and temporary password for access. Within two weeks, the traveler will be able to access the travel account electronically. The APC is available for help in navigating the website if needed. Contact the APC for more information.

Dollars and Sense is a forum to provide education on financial matters. If you want to read information on a particular subject, please send an e-mail to [mark.holbrook@losangeles.af.mil](mailto:mark.holbrook@losangeles.af.mil).



## Leading LA

### Tech. Sgt. Gregory Bean

...is currently the unit education and training manager for the 61st Medical Squadron, Performance Improvement Office. He manages the enlisted On-the-Job Training program and manages all training programs for all medical personnel assigned to the 61st Medical Squadron. "My job is critical because if the people aren't properly trained, they can't do their jobs," he said.

What's interesting about Bean is that he is currently working outside his normal job as the education and training manager. "He's doing a great service for his unit and for himself since he is normally a medical technician," said Staff Sgt. Andreus Whitehead, Base Training Manager. "He's kept his unit at the proper training level and has been doing a tremendous job. As far as I'm concerned, he's the best unit training manager on base."



The 20-year Air Force veteran is planning to retire in April and will work with "at risk" youth in Pennsylvania. He is close to finishing Associates of Allied Health Sciences and Associates of Instructional Technology degrees. If the Buffalo, N.Y., native isn't at his desk working on the next training evolution for the medical squadron, you might find him writing music for one of several instruments he can play or maybe programming his computer.

## OSC helps out local chorus

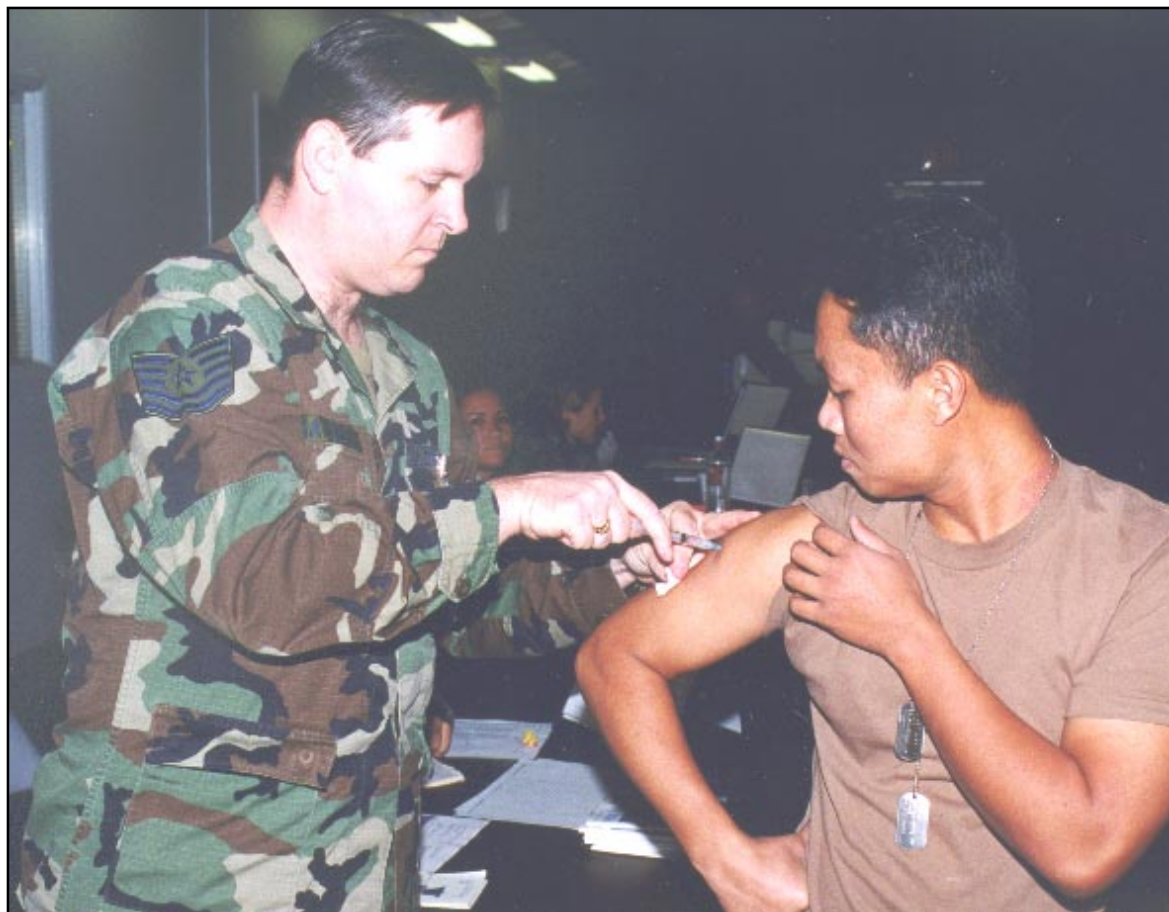


Photo by Lou Hernandez

Karen Magazu, far right, Officers' Spouses Club president, and Amy Miller, far left, Officers' Spouses Club welfare treasurer, present a check in the amount of \$1,000 to Carla Pelletier, the director of the Dodson Middle School Chorus at a recent performance by the chorus at the Fort MacArthur Community Center Ballroom. The school plans to use the money to help defray the costs of new tone chimes needed by the chorus. The OSC has also given \$1,100 to the band for the school to purchase three new violins. "The OSC executive board wants to change the focus of our giving," said Magazu. "Our objective is to increase the club's visibility within the community and to be recognized as a partner in the financial support of worthy causes in our area. We will award fewer scholarships but that will allow us to increase our donations to many of the same military and local organizations that we have given to in the past," she said.

# Exercise! Exercise! Exercise!

## *Base tests deployment readiness*



Clockwise from top left: Tech. Sgt. Thomas Hansen, 61st Medical Squadron Immunization Clinic NCOIC, administers a vaccine to a soon-to-deploy airmen. Senior Airmen Erica Cischke picks up her deployment bags which contain items such as cold weather gear, sleeping bag, specialty uniforms, flak jacket, helmet, gloves and other mobility items. Senior Airmen Adam Scheuer gets some help from disaster preparedness specialist Jim Richardson in adjusting his uniform during chemical warfare training. Staff Sgt. Stacy Feth, NCOIC of passenger travel, briefs deploying airmen on travel arrangements.



Photos by Shaad Madison



# Developmental Planning presents “Duke” Kane award

By Paula Provost  
Developmental Planning

The Developmental Planning Directorate, SMC/XR, recently awarded its 2nd Annual “Duke” Kane Award. The award is presented in honor of retired Col. Francis X. “Duke” Kane, the first Director of the Developmental Planning Directorate, for his contribution to the XR legacy. Under Col Kane’s leadership in XR, 1967 to 1970, the beginning of the program which would later become the Global Positioning System was developed.

The award is presented to the individual or team who “breathes life” into a program

or project during the award year. This year the award was given to The Blue Room Team. The team accomplished national accreditation across multiple security communities by co-locating network and secure communications capabilities in a single facility.

The Blue Room, located on the sixth floor of Building 105, provides video teleconferencing and secure communications capabilities for the senior SMC leadership.

Members of the winning team are Maj. Mark Powers, Capt. Thomas Miller, 1st Lt. Keith Fisher, Senior Master Sgt. Brent Carter, David Unangst, Joe Cooper, Joe Cooper Jr. and Ron English.



Photo by Shaad Madison

Pictured from left to right: Powers, Miller, Kane, Fisher, Carter and Unangst.



# SMC shuttle expert visits Ireland to run in Dublin City Marathon

By Capt. Tom Hoge  
Space Shuttle Payload Integrator

The Dublin City Marathon was my first marathon. I am not a runner and had certainly never considered a marathon, but when a friend had to drop out, she recruited me to replace her. I was a little reluctant because I don't really like running but I had time to train and my wife Veronica would be running with me. Plus, the marathon was a fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

The only thing harder than running all the miles during training was getting out of bed early enough to beat the heat. Veronica and I could not have picked a worse time to train for a marathon in Houston and often ran in 90-100 degree weather.

Three days before the marathon, we flew to Newark, N.J., and continued on to

Dublin. The best way to describe Dublin was uttered by one of our tour guides, "It would be the most beautiful city in the world if it just had a roof." Indeed it rained often but the cheeriness of the locals more than made up for the gloomy weather. They were always quick to strike up a friendly conversation. Not only was this my first marathon, it was also my first trip to Ireland.

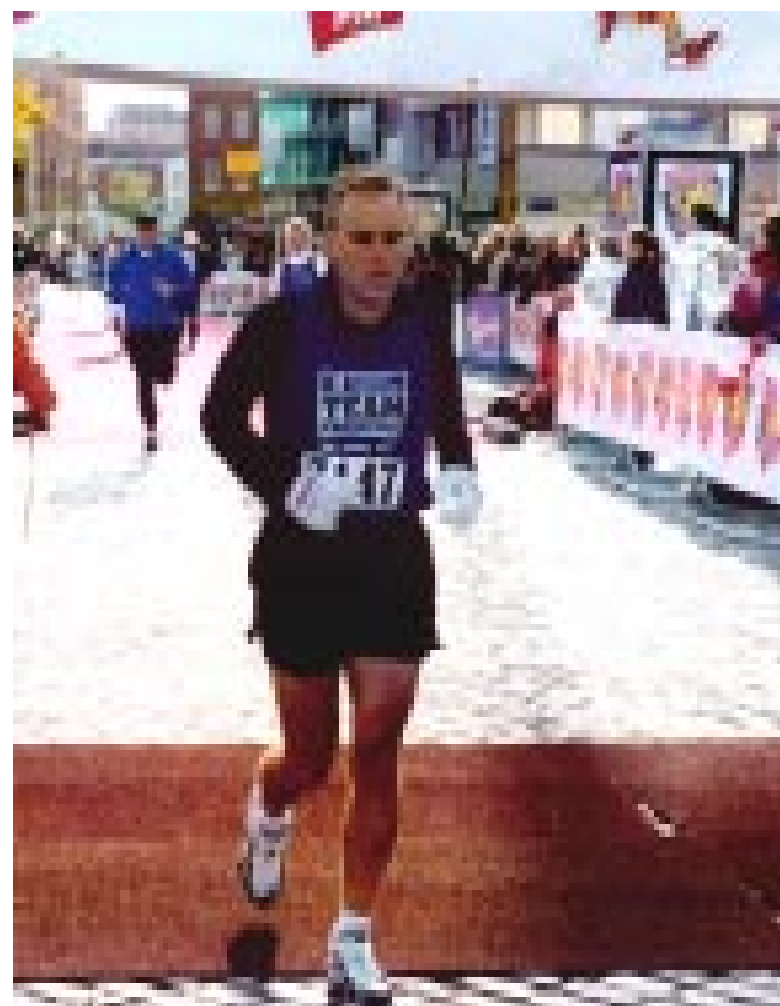
Running the marathon was an intense experience for me - physically, mentally and emotionally. We were not prepared for the Dublin rainy season. The race started at 8 a.m. with the temperature in the mid 40s. Standing in the middle of 7,000 excited participants, it didn't seem so cold. However, we quickly regretted not packing running tights. The winds were sustained at 20 mph, gusting to 30-40 mph, and creating a wind-chill factor of 28 degrees. We were still in high

spirits because at least we were dry.

Unfortunately, that didn't last. At three miles, it started sprinkling, and, by mile five, it was pouring. It rained steadily for the next two hours. Even though we were wearing gloves, our hands were frozen numb, but we still felt strong for the first half of the race. Then the cold and wet took its toll, and I had to slow down due to leg cramps.

The Dublin marathon is known as the "friendly marathon." The harsher-than-usual weather this year kept some spectators inside, but there were still plenty of Irish voices yelling "well done, well done!"

Veronica finished her fourth marathon in an impressive 3 hours and 59 minutes. I finished my first, and probably my last, marathon in a very respectable 4 hours and 50 minutes. Not bad for a guy who doesn't even like to run!



Courtesy photo

Capt. Tom Hoge crosses the finish line at the Dublin Marathon in 4 hours 50 minutes. Hoge is assigned to SMC's operating location at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

## Outdoor Recreation

Jan. 20. Big Bear Ski Trip. \$45 includes transportation, lift ticket and ski rental. Call 363-2190 for details.

## Youth Center

“YOFAM” 2001 Year of the Family membership sign-up. Sign up now for before- and after-school programs, summer camps, family events, teen scene and much more. Call 363-8565 for information.

## The Club

Jan. 28. Superbowl at the Club. 3 p.m. Club members are free, \$5 for non-members. Enjoy snacks and watch the Superbowl on the big screen TV. Many prizes to be won. Call 363-2230 for details.

## Community Center

Jan. 28. Superbowl at the Harborview Lounge. Doors open at 1 p.m. Plenty of food, party favors and giveaways. Call 363-8225 for information.

## A little chilly at Cabrillo



Photo by Lou Hernandez

Frank Magazu, far left, son of Lt. Col. Brian Magazu, Wideband Gapiller, Satellite program manager, runs quickly back out of the water at Cabrillo Beach in San Pedro, Calif., with some friends from the Youth Center at the annual Polar Plunge last week. The Polar

Plunge is a common tradition all over the world around the start of the year. It's a little less challenging in California than it is in Wisconsin, but it is a tradition! Plungers on Lake Michigan need to cut a hole in the ice before they can jump in the water.